VIEWS
IN
THE VAUDOIS

PROVINCIA DI TORINO
BIBLIOTECA
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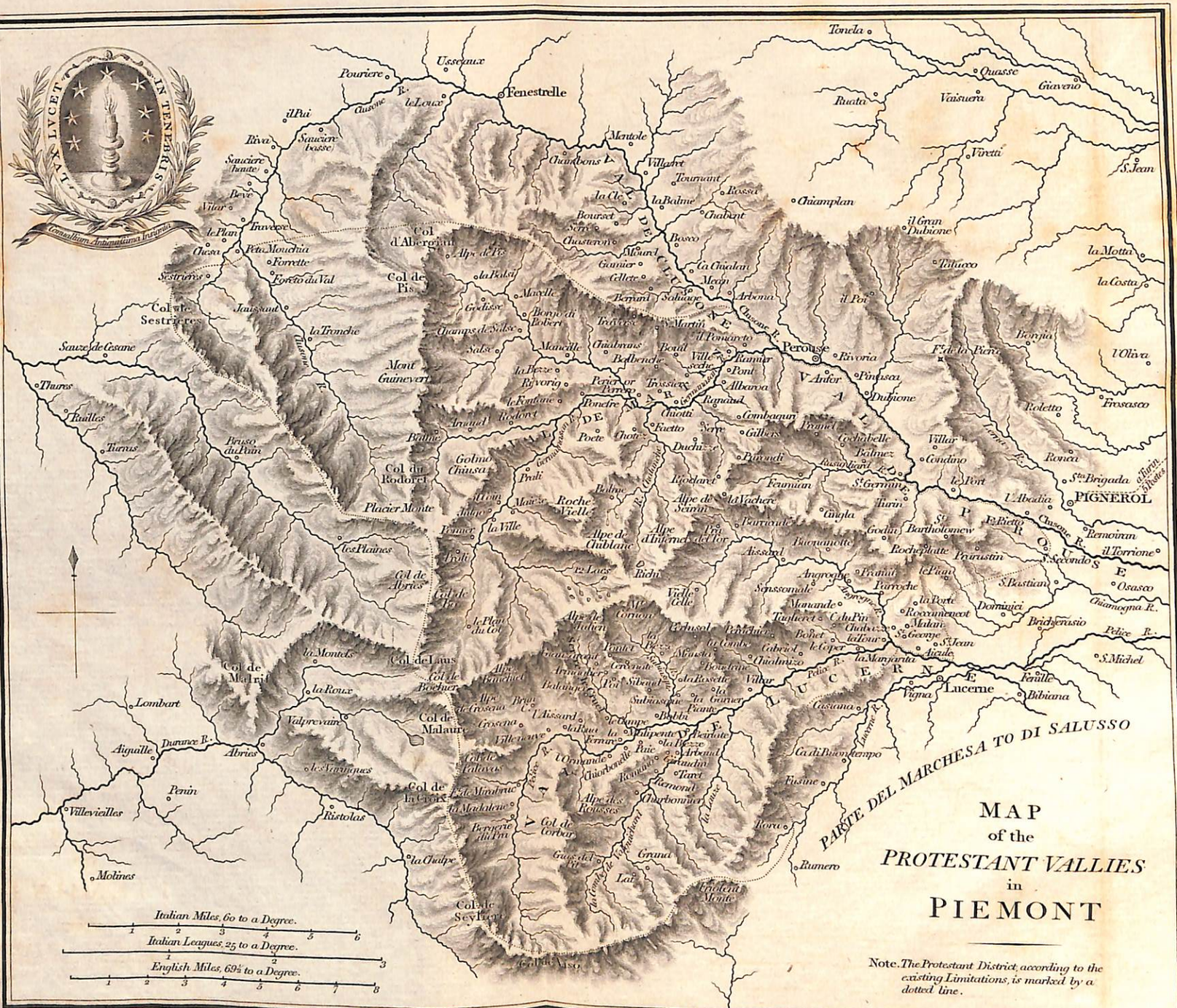
PROVINCIA DI TORINO


LUX LVCET IN TENEBRIS
Cunctarum Antiquitatum Investigatrix
Tonela
Ussegliaux
Pouriere
Fenestrelle
Quasse
Giaveno
Vaisuera
Ruata
Viretti
S.Jean
Mentole
Chiamplan
il Gran Dubione
la Motta
la Costa
Tuluco
Borgia
l'Oliva
Frosasco
Roletto
Ronco
Villar
Condino
Pinasca
Dubione
Perouse
Rivoria
V. Andor
Albarea
Pont
Ramier
Villesecche
Bouil
Chiabrans
Malcille
Salse
Champs de Salse
Godisse
Jaussaud
la Tronche
Sestrieres
Col de Sestrieres
Col de Pis
Col d'Abergian
Alpe de Pis
la Polsa
Sauze de Cesane
Thures
Railles
Turnus
Bruso du Puin
Mont Guinevert
Col du Rodoret
Placier Monte
les Plaines
Col de Abries
Col de Laus
la Monteis
Col de Maltri
la Roux
Lombart
Aiguille
Durance R.
Abries
Villevieilles
Perin
Ristolas
Molines
la Chalpe
Col de Malaure
Col de la Croix
Col de Valavas
les Vrammes
Col de Bochier
Col de Sevlieres
Fenestrelle
Pouriere
Ussegliaux
Chasone R.
Germanasca R.
Pelice R.
Lucerne R.
Lucerne
Vigna
Bibiana
Feraille
S.Michel
Osasco
Pelice R.
Chiamogna R.
Bridherasio
il Torrione
S.Secondo
Bernoinin
Chasone R.
S.Bastian
Dominici
Roccomenevot
Malanc
S.Geonge
S.Jean
Acrole
la Monjarina
Bobet
le Coyer
Chabrie
Chabrand
Taplarel
Chabpin
Angrogne
Pramol
le Pian
Parroche
la Porte
Sassomale
Manande
Buonamotte
Rochemolle
Pourustin
Bartholomew
St.Victor
Godin
Turin
Cumia

ILLUSTRATIONS

OF

THE VAUDOIS,

IN

A SERIES OF VIEWS:

ENGRAVED BY EDWARD FINDEN,

FROM

DRAWINGS BY HUGH DYKE ACLAND, Esq.

Accompanied with Descriptions.

LONDON:
CHARLES TILT, FLEET STREET.

M.DCCC.XXXI.

PROVINCIA DI TORINO
BIBLIOTECA

LONDON:

J. MOYES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE.

INTRODUCTION.

THE drawings for the accompanying prints were made to illustrate a volume published by me in 1827, entitled "The Glorious Recovery by the Vaudois of their Valleys." In republishing the prints in a separate form, I have obeyed the requests of many persons, who were anxious to possess them without the expense accompanying the original letter-press. But as these prints may be purchased by persons unacquainted with the former work, or with the history of the people who are the subject of it, the following outline of the most remarkable incidents relating to them may not be unacceptable.

The Vaudois, formerly Vallenses or Valdenses, have inhabited from time immemorial the three beautiful valleys of Lucerne, Perouse, and Martin, situated in the Cottian Alps, immediately above Piemont. By the marriage of Adelaide, Marchioness of Susa and Duchess of Turin, with Oddon, Count of Savoy, they became subject to the latter house, and remain so at the present time.

In a compendium of the history of the Vaudois prefixed to the "Glorious Recovery," &c., it is, I trust, proved, by the testimony of most eminent Protestant and Romish divines, that the Vaudois form a successive apostolical church, which has never been subjected to the ecclesiastical authority of Rome, nor tainted by Romish errors.

During the first ages of Christianity their history merges, of course, in that of the whole Western church. But when, at the end of the eighth century, Romish errors, already intolerable, received the sanction of a council convened at Nice by Adrian I., it was time for those who remained faithful to the *truth* openly to denounce its enemies, and to "go out from among them." The council of Frankfort, the Emperor Charlemagne, the British and German churches, raised their indignant voices, especially against the worship of images,—but in vain. Above all, however, in energetic defence of the *truth*, and bold condemnation of Romanism, was Claude, Archbishop of Turin. Every Romish error then existing, was exposed and combated by him with vast ability and with uncompromising zeal; and, so far from acknowledging the supremacy of Rome, he condemned her church as "superstitious and idolatrous." The Vaudois formed part of the flock of this indefatigable pastor; and their steadfast adherence to Claude's doctrines, after his death,

is evident from historians of the Romish persuasion.

During the succeeding five centuries, the Vaudois appear, not only to have preserved their light, but, from time to time, to have shot forth rays of it through the darkness which enveloped the rest of the Western churches.

For these purposes they had sometimes so many as one hundred and twenty pastors, who met annually in synod, in the recesses of their noble mountains. At these synods persons were appointed to preach in every part of Europe, where there was any hope of success. Money was contributed by all the members of their community. The Albigensian and Bohemian churches are the most splendid, though not the only proofs of the efficacy of these labours during the period now contemplated,—until, in the fourteenth century, their efforts were finally crowned by the appearance of Wickliffe, Huss, and Jerome of Prague, who fanned the Vallensian sparks into an unextinguishable flame.

Having thus fulfilled in peace the office of "witness," in retaining apostolical doctrines till the appointed time for their more general diffusion, the Vaudois were now to bear "witness" of another sort, through a series of persecutions unexampled in length and severity.

Alarmed by the rapid growth of the various

branches of the reformation, and furiously irritated against the parent stock, the church of Rome resolved that its vengeance should be satisfied only by the complete eradication of the latter. It is not my intention to enumerate the various persecutions suffered by the Vaudois—much less shall I enter on the horrible details of any one of them. I have elsewhere given some account of them; and he who has once minutely directed his attention to the subject, would gladly avail himself of a worse excuse than the brief limits of an introduction, to escape the horror of another consideration of it. These persecutions continued, with few intervals, for nearly three hundred years; and those intervals, I once more affirm, were "periods, not so much of security and repose, as of agonizing reflections and fearful anticipations." I may not, however, pass over in silence the last and most successful effort of their enemies; inasmuch as it led to the remarkable events recorded in "the Glorious Recovery by the Vaudois of their Valleys."

In 1686, Victor Amadeus II., influenced by the menaces of Louis XIV., resolved utterly to extirpate the Vaudois from their valleys; and he did so. The remnant left by the sword, the executioner, and disease, were banished into Switzerland. This remnant, amounting to three thousand persons, including women and children, were most tenderly

received by the Swiss, and comfortably located in the different towns and villages of Berne. Hence they were removed into the Palatinate, having offended the Bernois by two attempts to return to their native country,—attempts construed by the Duke of Savoy into hostility on the part of the Bernois government. In the Palatinate, ground sufficient for all their wants was allotted to them, and they were already expecting to reap their first harvest, when another removal became necessary. I will take the liberty of stating the cause of this removal and its results, from a pamphlet published by me in 1826.

In the commencement of 1689, Louis XIV., with a view to security on his German border, determined to lay waste the Palatinate; and the cruel accomplishment of this purpose is even yet marked by many a noble ruin. It was clear to the Vaudois that this was no place for them: the Swiss again pitied and received them. But in August of the same year they assembled in the forest of Nyon, to the number of eight hundred; and on the night of the 15th crossed the lake of Geneva, under the command of one of their pastors (Henri Arnaud), to commence a march of nearly two hundred miles, over a mountainous and hostile country, for the purpose of attacking the united forces of France and Savoy, of expelling the usurpers of their hearths, and recovering the possession to themselves. Leaving

the Meilleury Alps on the left, they dropped into the valley of the Arve, below Cluses; and, passing through Salenches and Contamines, crossed the Col de Bonhomme, and fell into the valley of the Isere at Bourgh St. Maurice. Pursuing the course of this river to Mount Iseran, they crossed that mountain, descended to the Arcque at Bonneval, left it again at Lans le Villard, near Lanslebourg, and ascended Mount Cenis. In order to avoid Susa, which was strongly garrisoned, they filed to the right, intending to cross the Dora, at Chaumont, between Susa and Exiles. Hitherto they had met with no serious opposition; but now they were so severely attacked in a narrow pass on the Jaillon, a little stream which joins the Dora just above Susa, that they resolved to keep the heights on the right bank of the Dora, and force its passage at the bridge of Salabertran, above Exiles. Here they were opposed by the Marquess of Larrey, and two thousand four hundred regular troops: they attacked him without hesitation, and so completely beat him, that twelve captains, several other officers, and six hundred privates, were left dead on the field, and the Marquess of Larrey was dangerously wounded, and carried on a litter to Briançon. Their own loss in killed is recorded to have been only fourteen!

Allowing time neither for triumph nor repose, and convinced that their courage and confidence

in God were to be exposed to yet harder trials, they immediately ascended the opposite mountain of Sci, though the battle had already occupied part of the night. Those who are not acquainted with lofty mountains, can scarcely conceive the labour of surmounting them; and those who have had this experience will be astonished, that after an eight days' forced march, in such a country, ended by a desperate battle, men should yet undertake, by moonlight, so difficult an ascent. It is one of the steepest and most painful, there being, even to this day, no beaten path, and the zone of the mountain being girdled with an immense forest of low supple under-wood, the long branches of which lie like ropes parallel to the ground, so that the walker is as it were in a broken net. On the following morning they descried the summits of their native mountains; and assembling together, they joined in thanksgiving to God for the sight, and in prayer for his protection in their further progress.

They then descended into the valley of the Clusone, pushed on to the highest village on the Col de Pis; and on the following morning, having routed a detachment of the enemy, who were in possession of the heights, they entered as glorious victors into their own land, whence they had departed little more than three years before as despised prisoners.

Without a more minute detail than is compatible with the view of this publication, it is impossible to describe the romantic nature of the war which these people sustained till the arrival of winter. They were felt every where, yet could be found no where; they were constantly divided, and ever uniting; they bivouacked among the snows and rocks for fear of their enemies, yet their enemies deserted the villages for fear of them; apparently incapable of shewing themselves to their opponents, they reaped a great part of the harvest in spite of them; they more than once effected a slaughter in one day greater in number than their own collected force; and, finally, they intrenched themselves in a noble and beautiful mountain, whence they regularly descended to grind their corn at two mills, while within a few leagues lay an army of twenty-two thousand men, who thought themselves never secure from attack while ditch or palisade was left incomplete. The winter was thus passed by them in dear-bought security. In the ensuing spring, as soon as the passes were practicable, Marshal Catinat invested their natural fort on every side, and ordered an attack on the 2d of May, the success of which appeared to admit of no doubt. It was made with the utmost gallantry; but repulsed with a dreadful slaughter of the French. The Balsi, or the mountain "des quatre dents," (for such is the name of this celebrated spot,) is situated

at the extremity of the valley of St. Martin. Between two torrents, whose dark and rocky channels unite in a narrow angle at the foot of it, the Balsi rises in a magnificent cone, forming a sort of spire at the end of a long and narrow ridge; on this spire are three pinnacles, one above the other, which, in the sharpness of their rocks, and the bold projection of the pines which adorn them, serve well to complete the architectural images of finial and of crocket. Each of these was separately intrenched by a ditch, and trees covered with huge stones; and the habitations were excavated in the ground. There is only one approach, and that is very abrupt.

After his failure, Marshal Catinat resigned the command to Feuquieres. This officer proceeded indefatigably; he caused each soldier to be provided with a bag of wool, proof against musket-ball, under cover of which they made slow but sure advances, intrenching themselves each day on whatever ground they gained.* A battery was erected on the opposite mountain, before which the ramparts of the Vaudois instantly disappeared; so that on the thirteenth day all was ready for a last and overwhelming attack on the highest pinnacle. Mules had been brought up loaded with gibbets and halters, and the whole country invited

* Feuquiers, in his Mémoires, mentions this fact himself.

to witness the execution of the last of the Vaudois. At day-break, on the ensuing morning, the French sounded the charge : not a shot was returned; the only remaining post was carried, but not a Vaudois was to be found. This gallant remnant was first discovered retreating over the snowy summit of the Guignevert, far out of the reach of their disappointed foe. They had escaped during the night by precipices hitherto deemed impracticable, and therefore unguarded. And even in this they could not have succeeded, on account of the shortness of the night, had they not been providentially assisted by a heavy fog two hours before the time of sunset.

For the space of another month they were engaged in many bloody encounters, defending themselves successfully in the neighbourhood of the Pra del Tor, the asylum of their forefathers in many a previous persecution. A period at last arrived to this extraordinary struggle. The lions, who had united their force for the destruction of this little flock, quarrelled among themselves ; and Victor Amadeus found no difficulty in reconciling the Vaudois to his service ; and having confirmed them in their reconquered possessions, not only reaped the fruit of their extraordinary courage as soldiers, but confided his own person to their loyalty and protection, when a fugitive from his besieged capital.

I have dwelt thus long on this extraordinary war, because the subjects of the accompanying prints are, for the greater part, scenes of its most important operations.

The protracted misfortunes of this unhappy people,—if indeed a people successful, at any cost, in defending pure religion may be deemed unhappy,—have not failed to excite the merited sympathy of other nations. Prussia and Switzerland, Holland and England, have evinced their interest for this primitive church in the mountains, by magnificent contributions to her necessities, the benefits of which she still enjoys. Among rulers, Cromwell defended the Vaudois with his accustomed energy; and Napoleon bestowed on them the birthright of man,—a community of civil rights. It remained for the Congress of Verona, studious of the privileges of princes, and negligent of the rights of the people, to commit, at their dictum, the Vaudois once more to the rule of their old oppressors, without one stipulation that the oppression should not be repeated; and well have their rulers known how to take advantage of the omission.

To this faint outline of Vaudois history it is unnecessary to add authorities, more especially as I have produced them in the "Compendium" alluded to in a former page. But if any one of my present readers should wish a more intimate ac-

quaintance with this interesting people, I would refer them to Mr. Gilly's "Narrative," &c.; and to "An Historical Defence of the Waldenses, by Jean Rodolphe Peyran, with an Introduction and Appendix by the Rev. Thomas Sims."

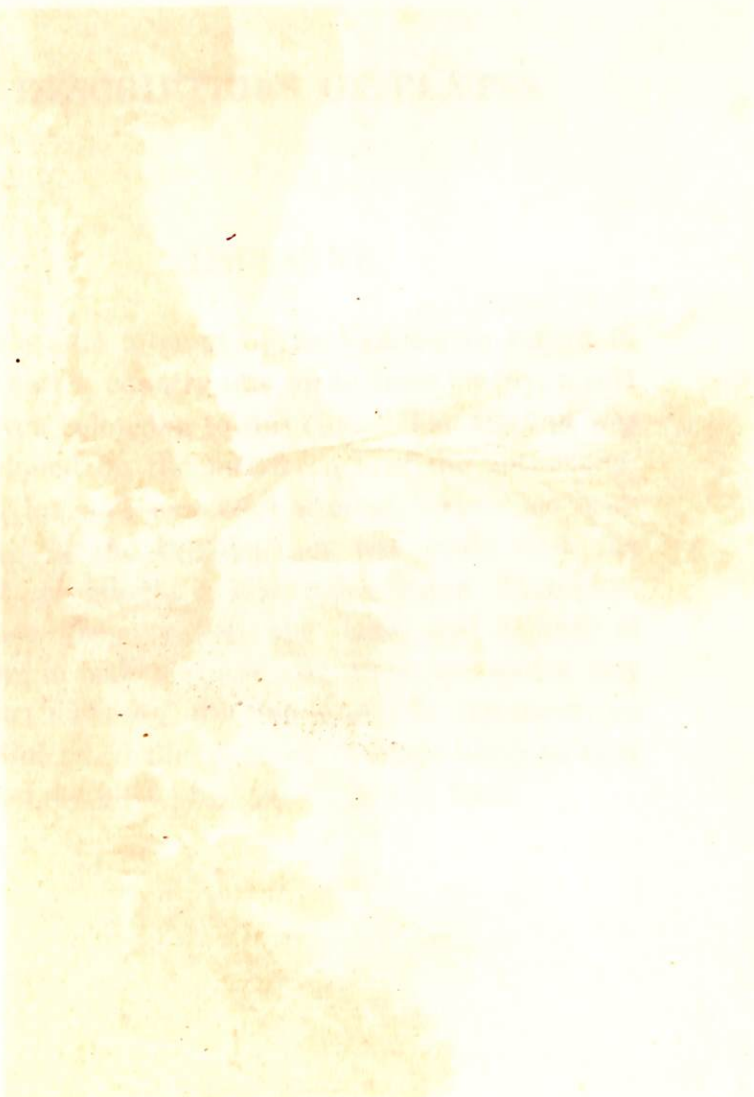
PROVINCIA DI TORINO

Drawn by Hugh Dyte Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden.

LAUSANNE.

Published March 1832 by C. Till 66 Fleet Street London.



DESCRIPTIONS OF PLATES.

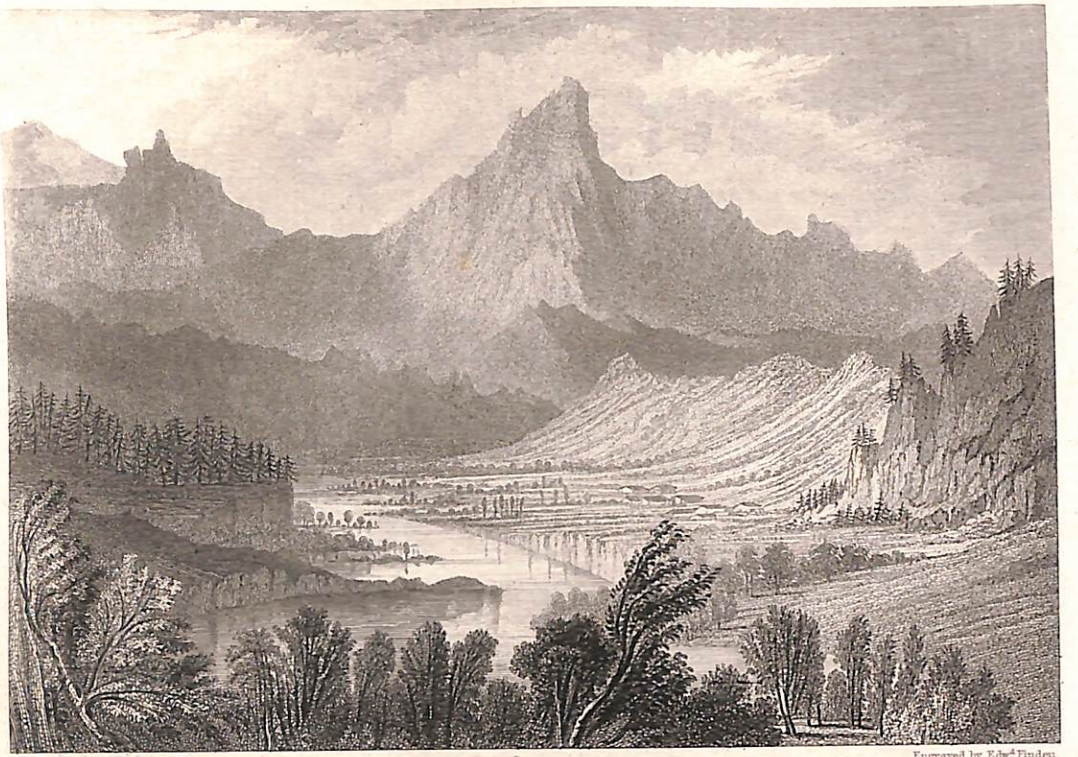
LAUSANNE.

The first attempt of the Vaudois to return to their native country was made from Ouchy, a sort of haven belonging to this city. The attempt was abandoned on the interference of the authorities. Their last and successful attempt, which has been related in the Introduction, was made from the forest of Nions, a few miles below Lausanne, whence they crossed the lake, and landed at Ivoire in safety; nor did they encounter any serious difficulty, till they found in the snow, on the Col du Bonhomme, an obstacle likely to have proved more effectual than a hostile force.

LE COL DU BONHOMME.

This beautiful but fatal pass lies between Salenche and the Petit St. Bernard. Near the summit are spots, about a league apart, named " La Place des Dames" and " La Place des Domestiques :" each is marked by a pile of stones, the passing work of travellers as they hear from their guides the melancholy story of the destruction of a party of ladies and their servants in a snow-storm. The hand which writes this page has contributed to these rude monuments; but little did the writer then think that it would be his lot to record a similar disaster, occurring, in his own time, to two of his own countrymen.

On the 13th of August last, four English gentlemen, namely, the Rev. Mr. Bracken, Mr. Augustus Campbell, Mr. Joseph Martin, and Mr. Henry Reynolds, started from Contamines, on their route to Cormayeur. Snow had fallen in the night, and the morning was wet and dreary. After proceeding about a league and a half they halted to breakfast, and while waiting for the return of a messenger sent to Contamines for bread, they were passed by a party of sixteen Jesuits. The guide now advised them to return; but, as he did not



Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden

THE COL DE BONHOMME.

FROM CONTAMINES.

Published March 1831 by C. Tilt, 86 Fleet Street London.

PROVINCIA DI TORINO

hint at danger, and as the Jesuits were in advance, they resolved on proceeding. On their progress they met a drove of oxen which had come over the pass, and, depending on the track, they advanced confidently. But the wind rose, and soon effaced the vestiges of the oxen; the snow became deeper and deeper, from two to four or five feet. A suggestion to return was opposed by the guide, as impossible; and the summit was with difficulty attained. Hence the distance to the only practicable descent in their direction is about an hour's walk: the intermediate ground is a rocky ridge above the line of vegetation, or, as the mountaineers expressively say, "hors de la nature." Even in the clearest weather, not a sign of human existence appears; the marmot, the chamois, and the eagle, are the only inhabitants. Here, in a freezing temperature, the wind increased violently, and darkened the air with clouds of snow. Our travellers could not see distinctly farther than a few yards; their extremities were benumbed, their hair frozen, and the guide had lost his way; yet each concealed his apprehensions, lest he might add to those of the rest; and some even affected confidence: Bracken alone was silent, and appeared resigned to the worst.

Their only remaining hope, an attempt to return, was cheered by a gleam of light, which displayed to them the post at the top of the pass; the guide was no longer at a loss; and the

certainty of security at the end of an hour and a half's descent all rallied their spirits, with the exception of Bracken. Within ten minutes from the commencement of the descent, he fell; Campbell, who was nearest to him, tried to lift him up, but could not. Martin and Reynolds then supported him for some yards, when Martin's strength also failed. The guide then added his assistance to Reynolds's, but their united power could scarcely carry him over a small brook. As Bracken's strength became more perfectly prostrated, so that of his supporters became exhausted, and all three were buried in the snow almost at every step, till at last the progress of a few yards occupied many minutes. Campbell and Martin were not only too weak to assist, but they could not force their own way unless the snow was partially removed for them; above all, night was at hand. Bracken was now insensible of his situation; yet did his gallant friend, aided by the guide, drag or carry him long after reasonable hope existed. The guide now remonstrated, and peremptorily urged the dreadful alternative of leaving Bracken to his fate, or yielding themselves to one common and inevitable destruction. Not to have left him would have been madness, for they could no longer assist him; whereas, since hope without reason will flutter indistinctly about kind men's hearts when their friends are in the last danger, they fancied, or would fain have fancied, that on reaching the

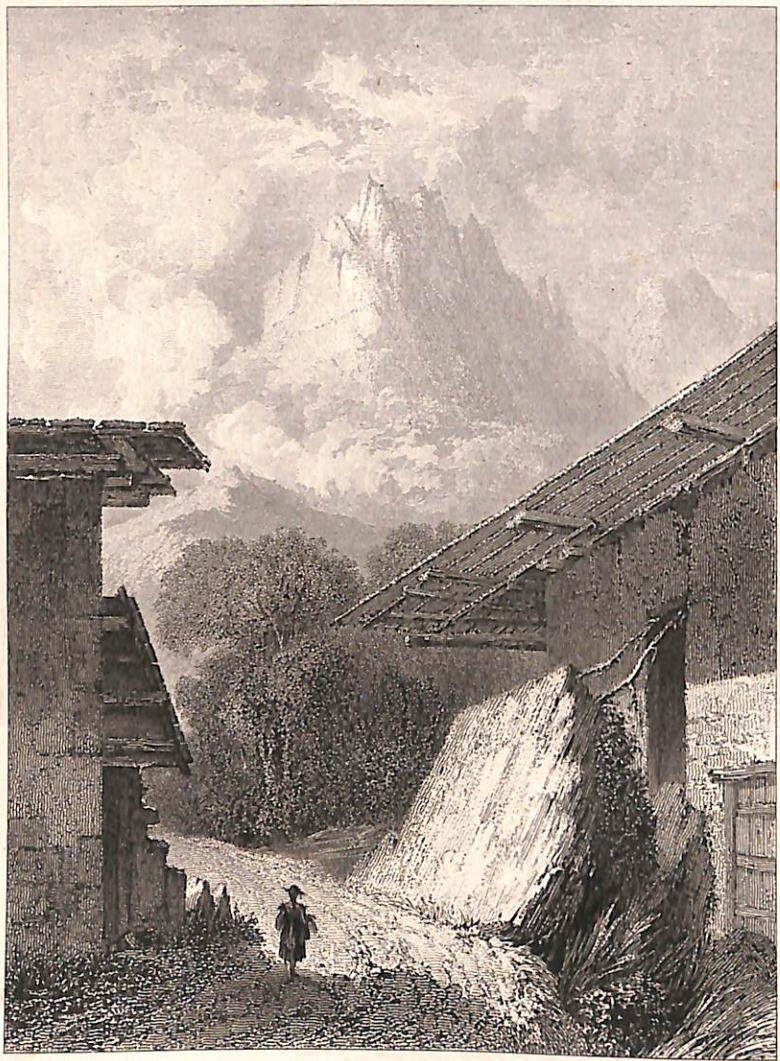
nearest châlet they might send out men capable of saving him. They sought the most sheltered spot, and placed him there, carefully wrapped in the cloak—which in fact was to be his winding sheet.

But the tragedy was not yet complete. They had scarcely recommenced their descent, when Campbell fell, in utter exhaustion. Martin and the guide went to his assistance, while Reynolds was clearing a way through the snow a few yards below them. Martin also fell from weakness, but recovered himself. Reynolds had not strength to ascend; but, with an unavailing effort, the guide and Martin brought Campbell down to the spot where Reynolds was. Their united exertions were unequal to the removal of the second sufferer; but as they were within a quarter of an hour of the nearest châlet, they had no doubt that they could reach it in time to send effectual assistance to him. His last words were, "Don't let me be the cause of you all perishing." He was brought in alive by the inmates of the châlet, within about half an hour from the time he was left; but it was only to change the scene of his death, for in ten minutes he breathed his last. The body of Bracken was also recovered; and both these victims, to the hazards of mountainous enterprises, now sleep in one grave, at Geneva.*

* The particulars of this tragedy were received, with permission to publish them, from the nearest relations of one of the sufferers.

NEAR MONT CENIS.

The annexed subject has been introduced, not as a scene of any memorable exploit by the Vaudois, but as a beautiful specimen of the country over which they marched on their glorious return from Switzerland.



Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

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NEAR MONT CENIS.

Published March 1832 by C. Tilt, 86 Fleet Street, London.

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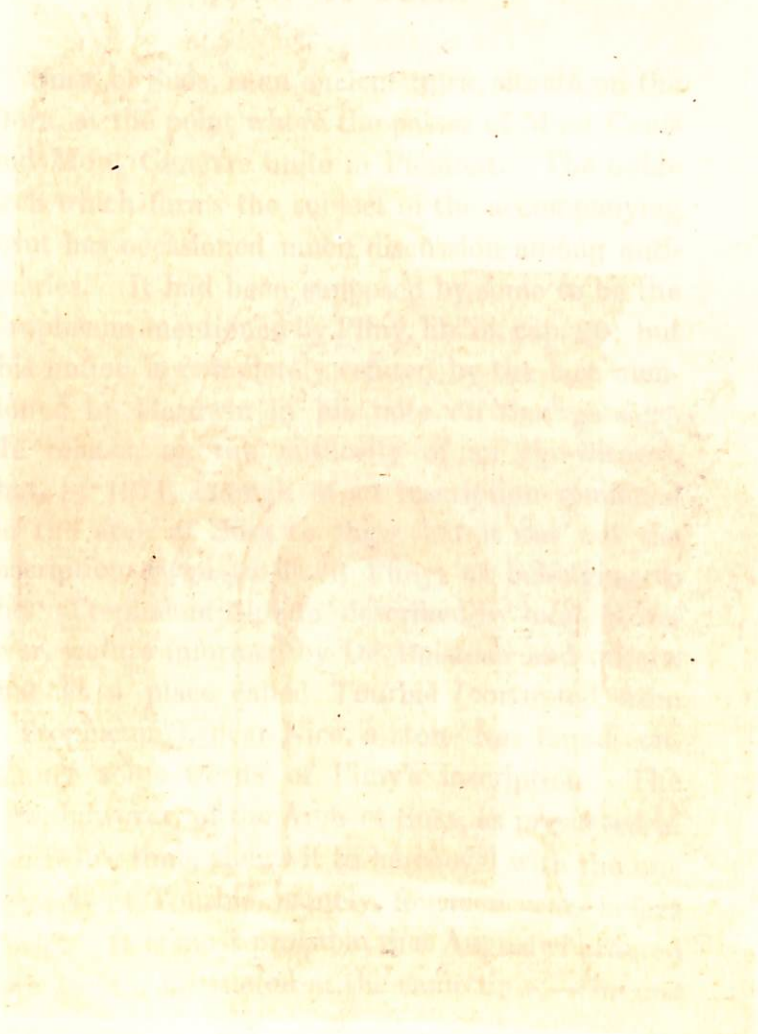
ARCH AT SUSA.

Published March 1833 by C. Tilt. 86 Fleet Street. London.



at the transalpine, the other at the cisalpine, extremity of the conquests celebrated by them.

Among the ravines close to Susa, the Vaudois, under Henri Arnaud, met with a severe repulse ; a misfortune for which they were to be amply compensated on the same day.

PROVINCIA DI TORINO

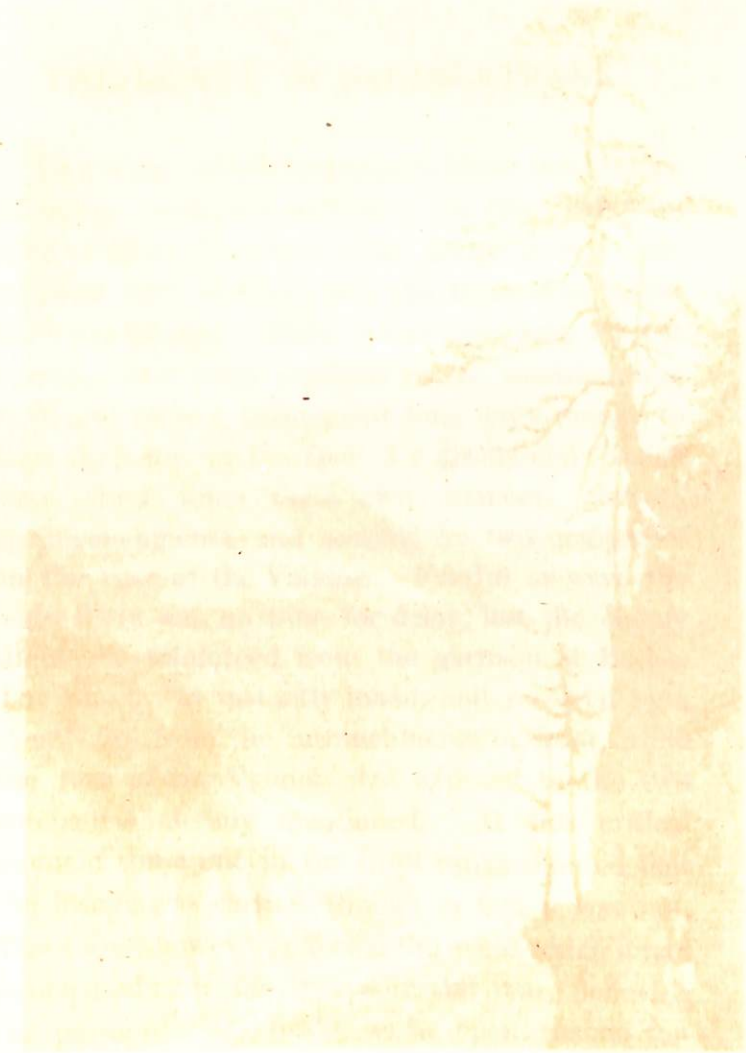
Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

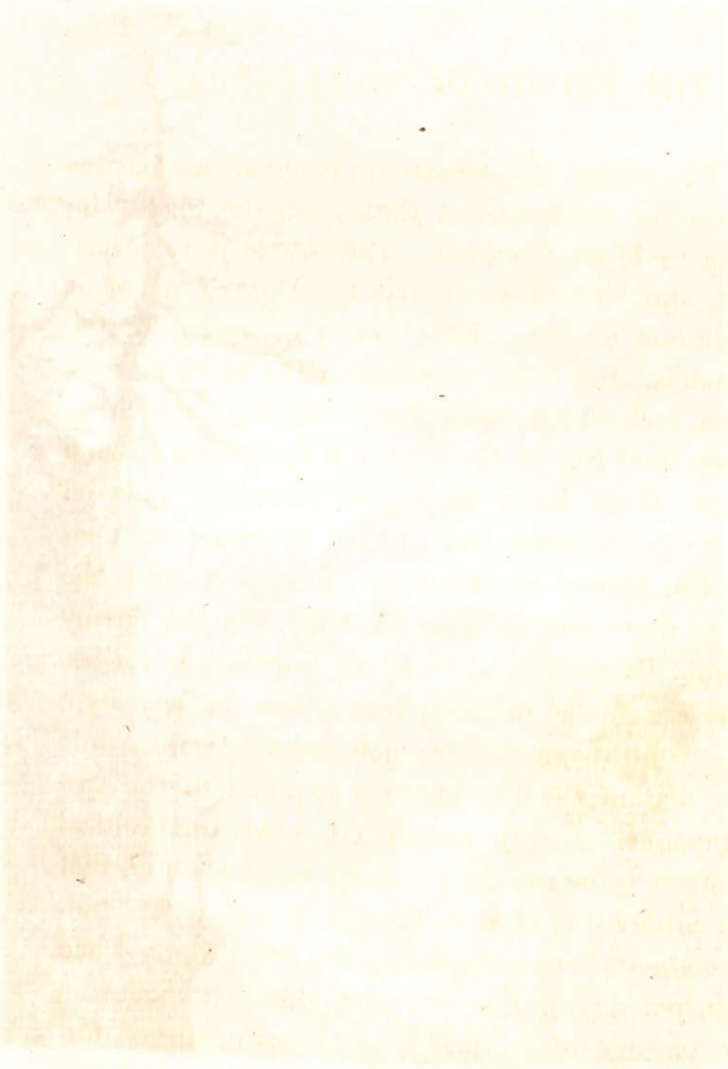
Engraved by Edwd Finden.

SALABERTRAUN.

FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF SCI.

Published March 1831 by C. Tilt 86 Fleet Street London.





THE BRIDGE OF SALABERTRANN.

The village of Salabertrann is about two leagues above the noble fort of Exiles, on the road from Susa to Mont Genèvre. The bridge is very narrow, and built of wood, over the Dora, a turbulent mountain torrent. Here it was necessary for the Vaudois, after being repulsed in the morning near Susa, and after a subsequent long day's march, to force their way in the face of a disciplined French force, three times their own number, covered by intrenchments, and assisted by two companies on the rear of the Vaudois. Fearful as were the odds, there was no time for delay, lest the enemy should be reinforced from the garrison at Exiles. The onset was instantly made, and received by a steady fire from the intrenchments in front, while the rear of the Vaudois was exposed to the two companies already mentioned. At this critical moment some one in the front ranks shouted that the bridge was carried, though in fact it was not. The shout, however, effected the event which it had anticipated; for the troops in the rear, believing the passage of the bridge to be open, rushed forward so impetuously as to force the front irresistibly over it: the intrenchments were immediately

carried, and, after a hand-to-hand battle of two hours, not a Frenchman was to be seen. Considering the inferiority of their numbers, the bad position of the Vaudois, and the good one of their enemy, and that the destruction of the bridge (so easy to the French) would have been fatal to them, their wonderful success seems attributable to scarcely less a cause than a direct interposition of Providence.

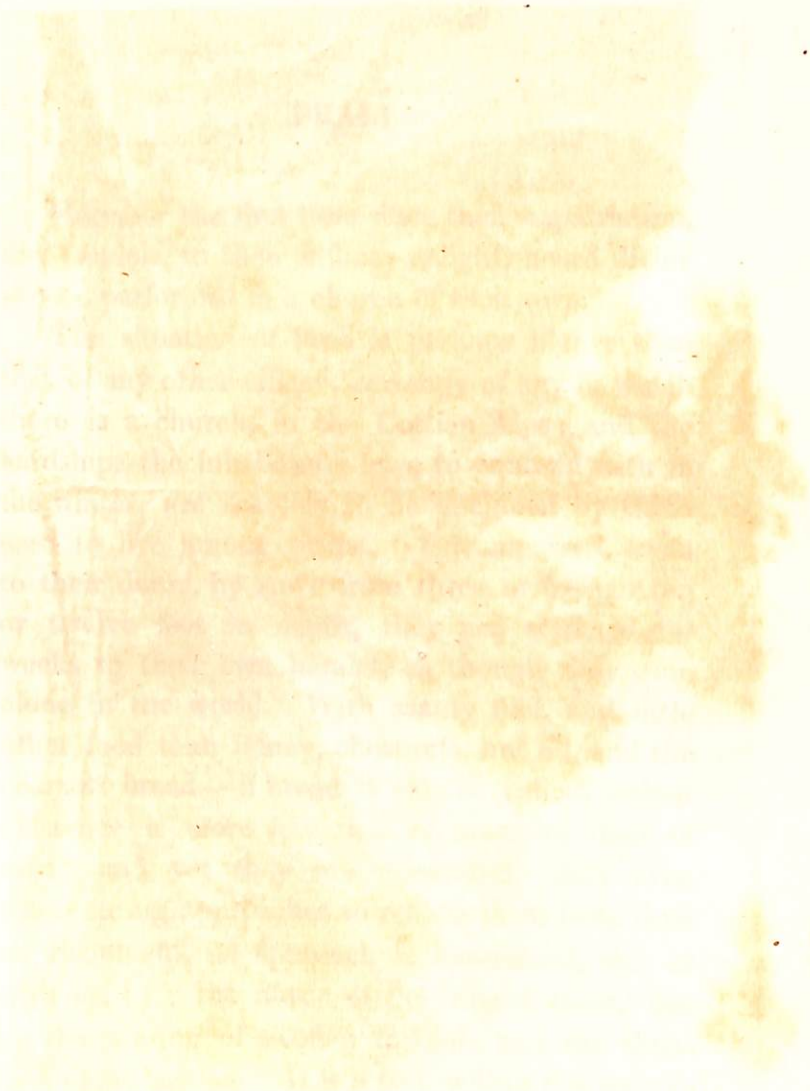
PROVINCIA DI TORINO

Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden.

PKALI.

Published March 1831 by C Tilt 86 Fleet Street London.



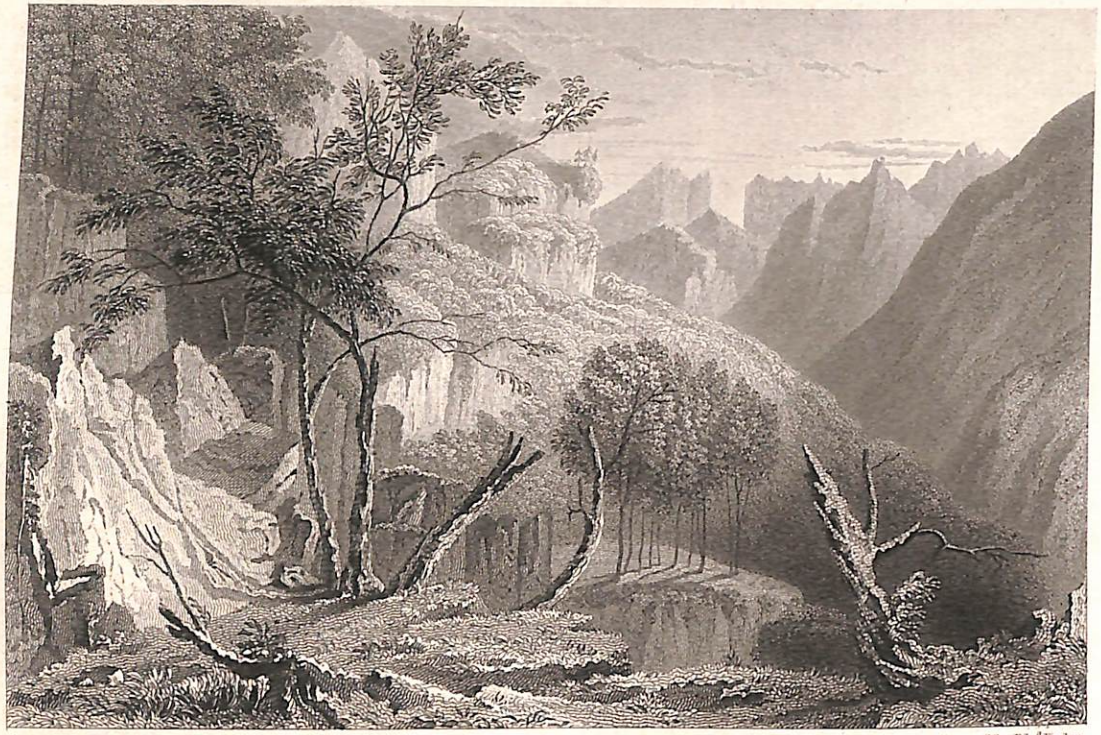
PRALI.

Here, for the first time since their expatriation, the Vaudois, to their infinite delight, heard divine service performed in a church of their own.

The situation of Prali is perhaps higher than that of any other village, certainly of any in which there is a church, in the Cottian Alps; and the hardships the inhabitants have to contend with in the winter, are scarcely to be imagined by those used to live among plains. Encompassed, even to their doors, by snow from three or four to ten or twelve feet in depth, they are confined for weeks to their own hamlet, as though they were alone in the world. With scanty fuel, and little other food than honey, chestnuts, nut oil, and the coarsest bread—if bread it can be called,—their existence is more like that of marmots than of men; and yet they are contented. And even when spring approaches to relieve them from their imprisonment, its approach is announced, not as with us, by "the music of the winged choir," but by the roaring of swollen torrents and the thunders of avalanches. It is a fact, within the writer's own knowledge, that the wife of a pastor of this place, now living, was carried about during an

accouchement from room to room, to avoid the fury of a flood which penetrated the whole house; and her child was born literally amidst the "troubled waters." But hardships such as these appear to have been the best, if not the only, securities of the Vaudois, for centuries, against the oppression of their Romish adversaries.

PROVINCIA DI TORINO

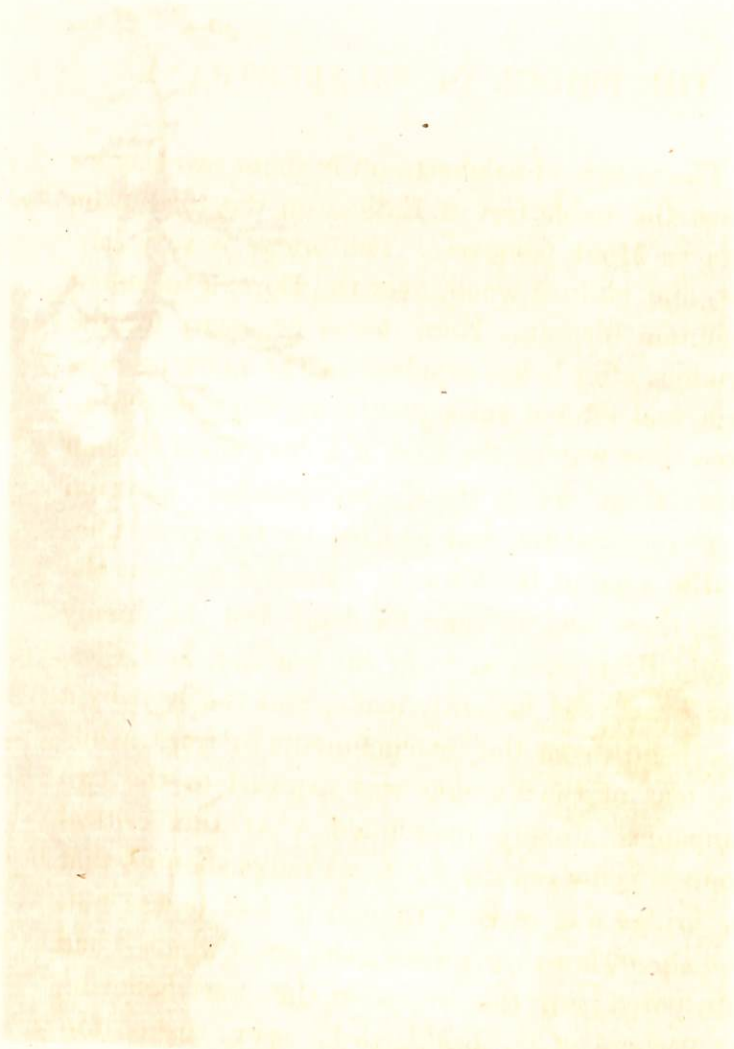


Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden.

THE SERRE LE CRUEL.

Published March 1831 by C. Tilt 86 Fleet Street London.



THE BRIDGE OF SALABERTRANN.

The village of Salabertrann is about two leagues above the noble fort of Exiles, on the road from Susa to Mont Genèvre. The bridge is very narrow, and built of wood, over the Dora, a turbulent mountain torrent. Here it was necessary for the Vaudois, after being repulsed in the morning near Susa, and after a subsequent long day's march, to force their way in the face of a disciplined French force, three times their own number, covered by intrenchments, and assisted by two companies on the rear of the Vaudois. Fearful as were the odds, there was no time for delay, lest the enemy should be reinforced from the garrison at Exiles. The onset was instantly made, and received by a steady fire from the intrenchments in front, while the rear of the Vaudois was exposed to the two companies already mentioned. At this critical moment some one in the front ranks shouted that the bridge was carried, though in fact it was not. The shout, however, effected the event which it had anticipated; for the troops in the rear, believing the passage of the bridge to be open, rushed forward so impetuously as to force the front irresistibly over it: the intrenchments were immediately

carried, and, after a hand-to-hand battle of two hours, not a Frenchman was to be seen. Considering the inferiority of their numbers, the bad position of the Vaudois, and the good one of their enemy, and that the destruction of the bridge (so easy to the French) would have been fatal to them, their wonderful success seems attributable to scarcely less a cause than a direct interposition of Providence.

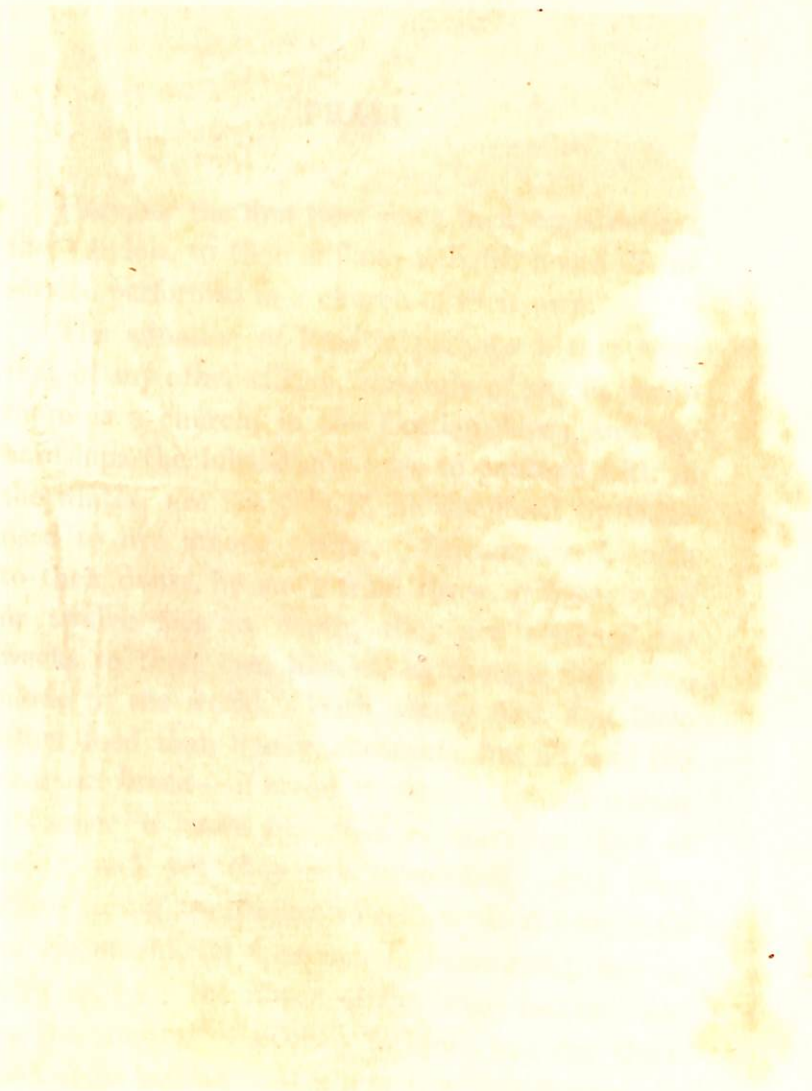
PROVINCIA DI TORINO

Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden.

PRALI.

Published March 1831 by C. Tilt 86 Fleet Street London.



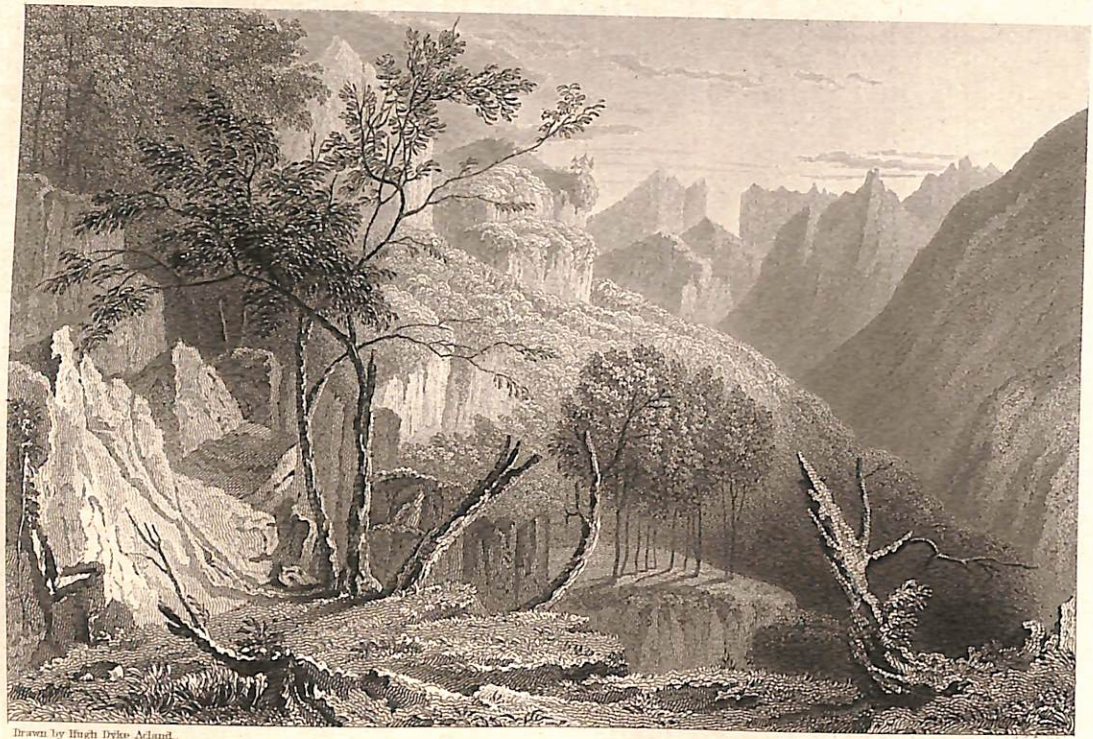
PRALI.

Here, for the first time since their expatriation, the Vaudois, to their infinite delight, heard divine service performed in a church of their own.

The situation of Prali is perhaps higher than that of any other village, certainly of any in which there is a church, in the Cottian Alps; and the hardships the inhabitants have to contend with in the winter, are scarcely to be imagined by those used to live among plains. Encompassed, even to their doors, by snow from three or four to ten or twelve feet in depth, they are confined for weeks to their own hamlet, as though they were alone in the world. With scanty fuel, and little other food than honey, chestnuts, nut oil, and the coarsest bread—if bread it can be called,—their existence is more like that of marmots than of men; and yet they are contented. And even when spring approaches to relieve them from their imprisonment, its approach is announced, not as with us, by "the music of the winged choir," but by the roaring of swollen torrents and the thunders of avalanches. It is a fact, within the writer's own knowledge, that the wife of a pastor of this place, now living, was carried about during an

accouchement from room to room, to avoid the fury of a flood which penetrated the whole house; and her child was born literally amidst the "troubled waters." But hardships such as these appear to have been the best, if not the only, securities of the Vaudois, for centuries, against the oppression of their Romish adversaries.

PROVINCIA DI NUORO

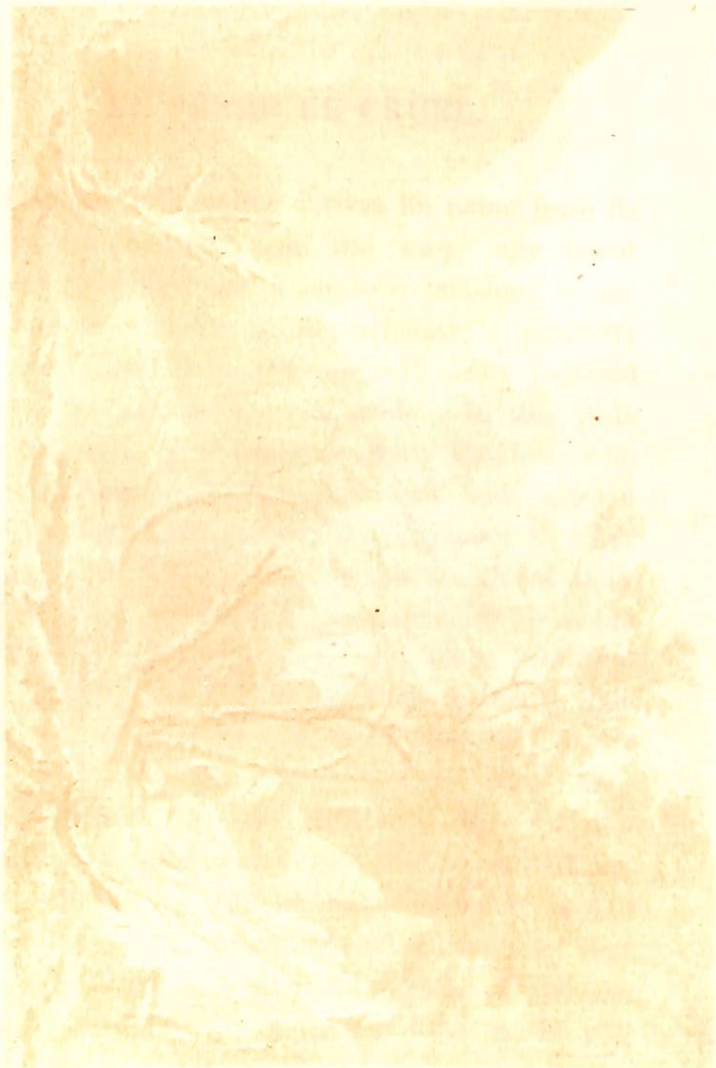


Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden.

THE SERRE LE CRUEL.

Published March 1832 by C. Till 86 Fleet Street London.



LE SERRE LE CRUEL.

This romantic valley derives its name from its precipitous character, and the many consequent dangers to which the incautious traveller is exposed in it. There is, nevertheless, a perfectly safe path through it, but one not easily pursued without the assistance of a guide. In this rude glen and its neighbourhood, eighty Vaudois, who had been separated from the main body after a severe action, were entirely encompassed by their enemies, but, with a loss of one-fourth of their number, they maintained their ground for some weeks, and ultimately rejoined their brethren. Among rocks inaccessible by their enemies, they found their only safety, and their only shelter was in caverns. In these fastnesses they were sometimes confined for days without food; for any attempt at foraging would have led to their discovery by their tracks on the snow which surrounded them. They were, in fact, discovered twice by that very mode,—having, under the impulse of extreme hunger, issued forth in search of food at the risk of life. In one instance twelve of them repulsed a hundred and twenty-five peasants, the latter probably being without fire-arms: in the other, the

whole party were encircled by the enemy; but having shut themselves up in an old house, they resisted every attack, until, to use the language of M. Arnaud, " they were assisted by the night, who buried in her darkness the image of death, which had been before their eyes during the entire day."

PROVINCIA DI TORINO

Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland. Engraved by Edwd Finden.

THE BALSI.

Published March 1831 by C. Tilt 86 Fleet Street London.

THE BALSI.

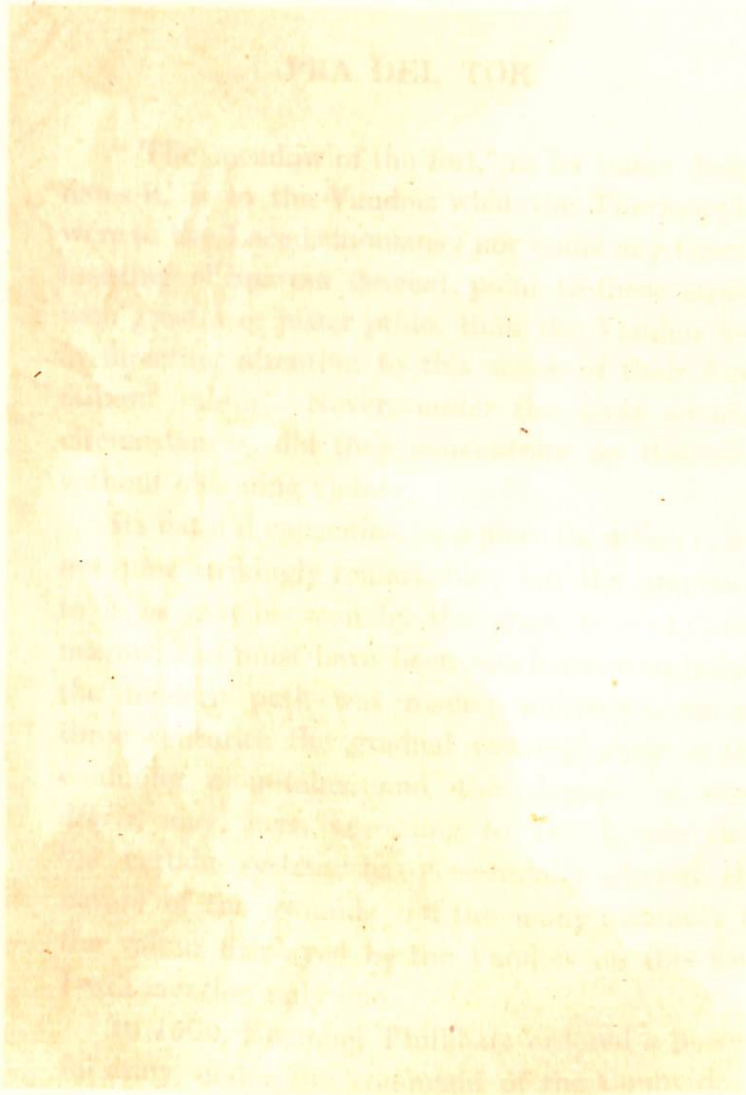
The wonderful tenure and defence of this rock by the Vaudois, and their ultimate expulsion and escape from it, have been already related in the Introduction.

PRA DEL TOR.

" The meadow of the fort," as its name designates it, is to the Vaudois what the Thermopylæ were to the Lacedæmonians : nor could any Greek, boasting of Spartan descent, point to those straits with greater or juster pride, than the Vaudois feel in directing attention to this scene of their forefathers' valour. Never, under the most adverse circumstances, did they concentrate on this spot without obtaining victory.

Its natural capacities, as a place for defence, are not now strikingly remarkable ; but the approach to it, as may be seen by the print, is rocky and narrow, and must have been much more so before the modern path was made : moreover, during three centuries the gradual wearing away of the confining mountains, and the deposit of their *débris*, may, even according to Dr. Lyall's slow but certain system, have materially altered the nature of the ground. Of the many instances of the valour displayed by the Vaudois on this spot I will mention only one.

In 1560, Emanuel Phillibert ordered a powerful army, under the command of the Count de la Trinité, to devastate the valleys (of the Vaudois).



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FRA. DEL. TOR.

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PROVINCIA DI TORINO

Taught by experience, that in open resistance alone was any chance of escape, and how to offer it most effectually, the Vaudois concealed the helpless among them in caverns, while the effective occupied and barricaded those spots which, by nature, were most defensible. The Count found every forest an ambush, and every rock a fort; while all his movements were discovered by watches on the heights. Mortified and enraged by continual failures, he applied for reinforcements, but every fresh contest increased his disgrace and the confidence of the Vaudois, till an Alpine winter compelled a suspension of hostilities.

PROVINCIA DI TORINO

No sooner, however, had the frost and snow withdrawn their protection from this devoted land, than the Count resumed operations, aided by ten fresh companies and several troops of French veterans. In the face of this army, the Vaudois stormed and carried a newly-built fort at Villars. To revenge this insult, the Count, on the following day, concentrated his force, and appeared in the valley of Angrogna at the head of 8000 picked men, determined to expel the Vaudois from the Pra del Tor, a small circular plain in the heart of the mountains, whence they had never been dislodged.

For four successive days charge followed charge, with no other intermission than the time occupied in relieving the defeated columns by fresh troops from the rear. Having lost 400 privates, 8 cap-

tains, and 2 colonels, on the field, in addition to the wounded, and others who had been previously interred, the Count was forced to fall back on La Tour. But his obstinacy led him to make a second and more disastrous attempt. The assailants on this occasion were Spaniards, who, finding the contest as fruitless and destructive as the former, imputed some fatality to the scene of action, and from superstitious panic proceeded to open mutiny. Taking advantage of the consequent confusion among their enemies, the Vaudois, in their turn, became assailants, and the rout of their foe was immediate. The victors pursued the fugitives through the rude and narrow valley of Angrogna, where the torrent and precipice proved almost as fatal as the sword.*

* Mons. D'Aubigni, Hist. Univ. chap. ix. Sir S. Morland, p. 235.

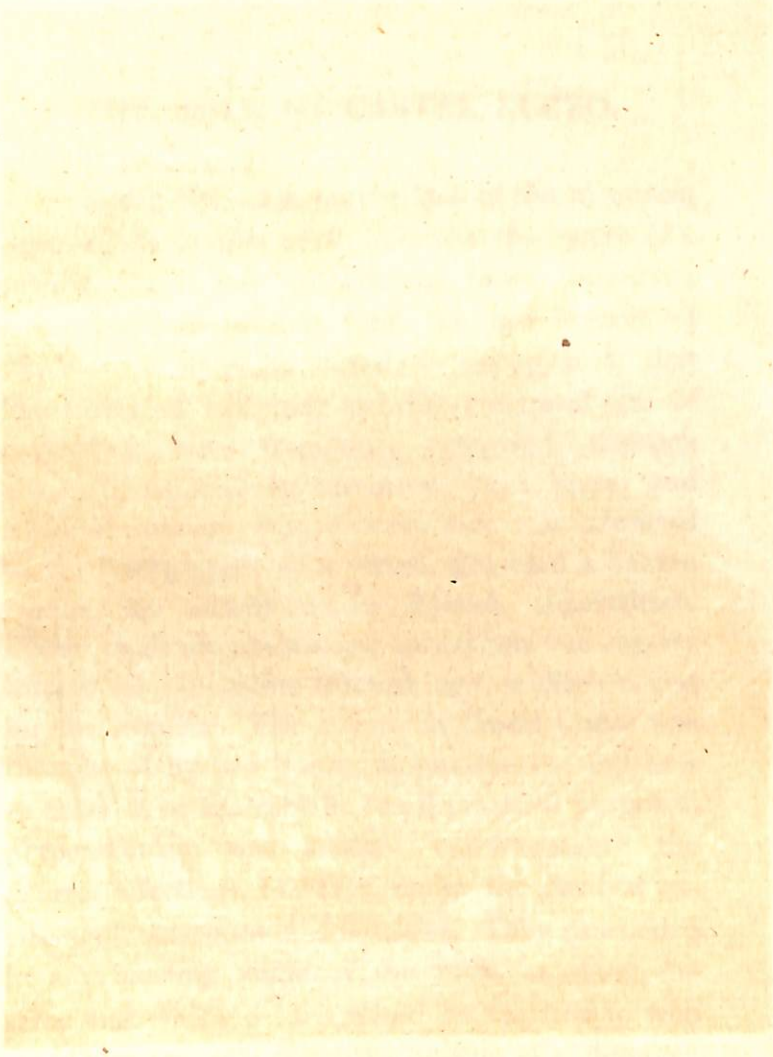
PROVINCIA

Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden.

THE ROCK OF CASTEL LUZZO.

Published March 1831 by C Till 86 Fleet Street London



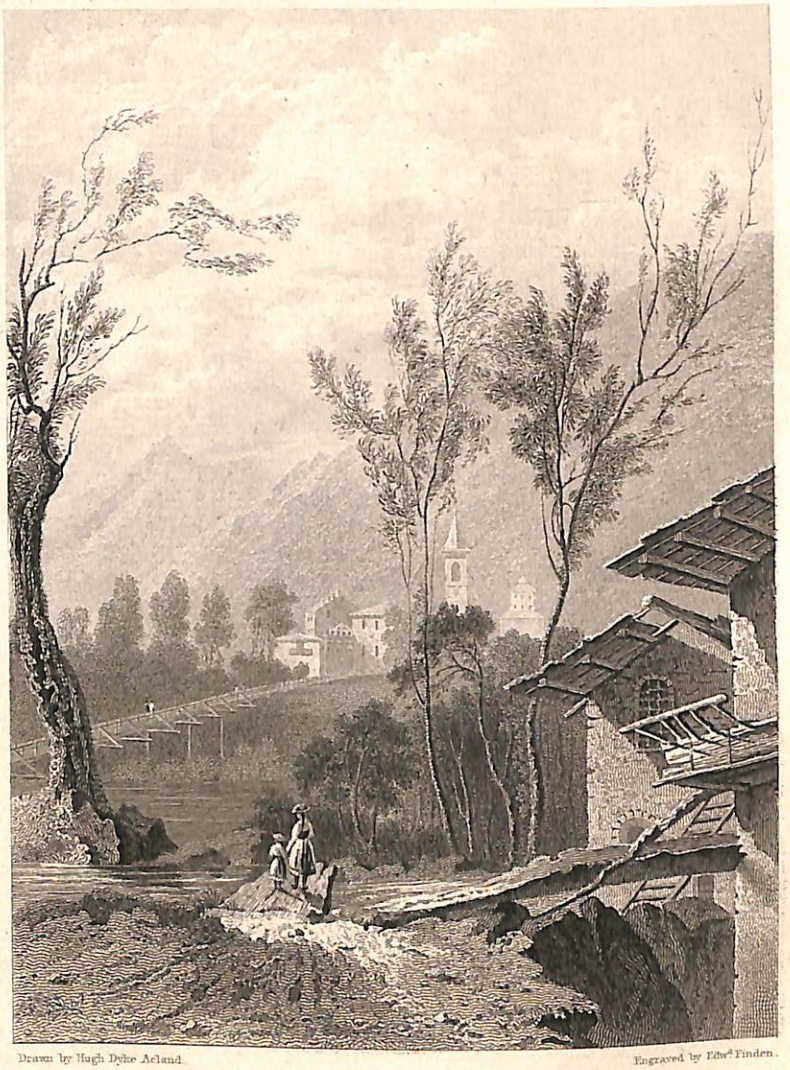
THE ROCK OF CASTEL LUZZO.

A small dark spot, on the face of the mountain represented in this print, indicates the mouth of a cavern, which has, at different times, preserved many hundred persons from the last horrors of cruelty. It must be stated, in explanation, that the valley of Lucerne, and the collateral one of Angrogna, were frequently possessed, through means of surprise or treachery, by a brutal and fanatical soldiery, whose every vice was admitted by their employers as a virtue, provided a human victim was sacrificed to Romish superstition. Under these circumstances, an asylum was eagerly sought for the infirm through age or disease, and for the women. The cavern in Castel Luzzo was thought of by two young mountaineers; but how to enter it, as the rock is, to all practical purposes, perpendicular, was another consideration: the dearest affections, however, under the greatest excitement, surmount all difficulties. They descended by a projecting angle of the rock, at about the same risk which a man would be exposed to who should try to come down the outside of a chimney, excepting that, instead of a fall of sixty feet, they risked one of 600. Having gained the cavern,

they received from their comrades, at the top of the rock, ropes and a block, to make a pulley; and by this pulley, in dark nights to avoid detection, the women and the infirm were hoisted up, as were also provisions. Eventually an upper entrance to the cavern was discovered on the top of the mountain, but so narrow that two men might defend it effectually. Brick ovens were constructed, and straw introduced for bedding; and in this "secret place" as many as 300 persons have been concealed together for weeks.

During the summer of 1829, Mr. Gilly explored this remarkable spot, and will, no doubt, give a perfect account of it in his forthcoming work.

PROVINCIA DI TORINO



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LA TOUR.

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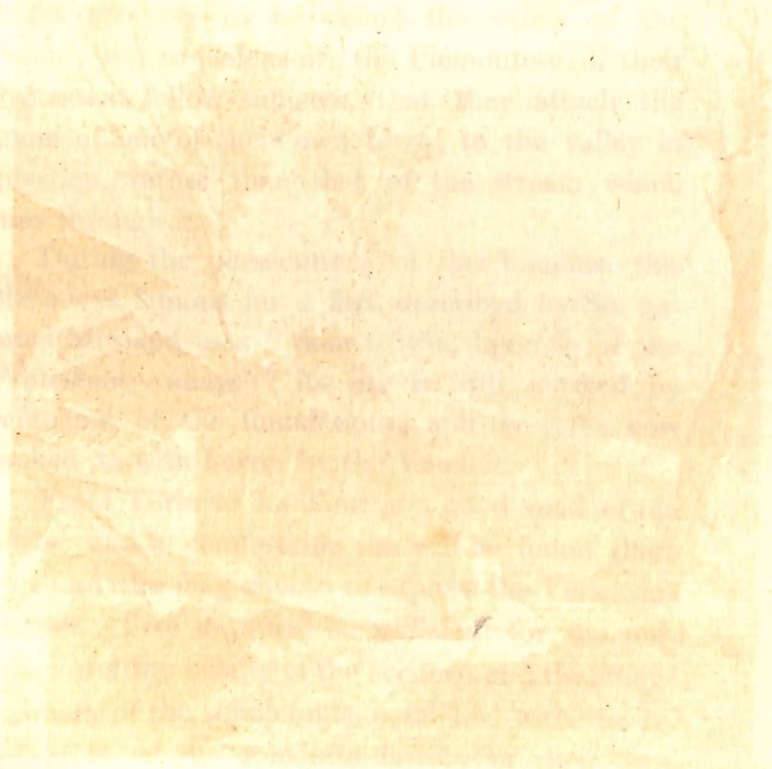

LA TOUR.

This little town may be termed the capital of the country of the Vaudois. It is situated at the bottom of the beautiful valley of Lucerne, which ought properly to be called the valley of the Pelice; but so jealous are the Piémontese of their Protestant fellow-subjects, that they attach the name of one of their own towns to the valley in question, rather than that of the stream which runs through it.

During the persecutions of the Vaudois, this place was famous for a fort, described by Sir Samuel Morland as a "door to the dungeon of the Protestant valleys:" its site is still marked by remnants of the foundations, and is even now looked on with horror by the Vaudois.

From Turin to La Tour is a good road of ten posts; and a comfortable inn will be found there by those who may choose to explore the Vallensian district. Five days will be sufficient for the purpose; and the beauty of the scenery, and the simple manners of the inhabitants, combined with the recollection of the romantic history of their forefathers, will amply reward the traveller for his pains.

Drawn by Hugh Dyke Acland.

Engraved by Edwd Finden.

LA TOUR & LUCERNE.

FROM THE HEIGHTS ABOVE MARGUERITE.

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PROVINCIA DI TORINO

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